

Spring 2013 Climate Information

Spring 2013 begins on Wednesday, March 20th, 2013 at 602 AM CDT, and will end on Friday, June 20th, 2013 at 1204 AM CDT, when the Summer of 2013 officially begins.

Spring Climate Information from the 1981 to 2010 Thirty Year Normals is listed below for Austin, Del Rio, and San Antonio. The information for extremes includes information from the beginning of climate record.

Austin/Mabry

Month	High	Low	All time High	All time Low	Average Rainfall	All Time Driest	All Time Wettest
March	72.2	51.3	98	18	2.76	0	7.23
April	79.8	58.6	99	30	2.09	T	19.82
May	86.5	66.7	104	40	4.36	T	14.10
June	92.1	72.3	108	51	4.33	0	14.96

Austin/Bergstrom

Month	High	Low	All time High	All time Low	Average Rainfall	All Time Driest	All Time Wettest
March	71.8	46.6	98	17	2.51	0.05	6.52
April	79.8	54.7	99	31	2.28	0.03	12.18
May	86.7	63.7	102	42	2.66	0.28	13.69
June	92.2	69.9	109	56	4.38	T	15.59

Del Rio

Month	High	Low	All time High	All time Low	Average Rainfall	All Time Driest	All Time Wettest
March	76.2	52.1	103	19	1.14	T	3.20
April	83.6	59.6	106	33	1.65	T	7.51
May	89.8	67.9	109	45	2.81	0.03	10.23
June	94.7	73.4	112	49	2.35	T	13.71

San Antonio

Month	High	Low	All time High	All time Low	Average Rainfall	All Time Driest	All Time Wettest
March	73.5	50.8	100	19	2.31	T	6.12
April	80.5	58.1	101	31	2.10	T	11.64
May	87.0	66.8	104	43	4.01	0.17	14.07
June	92.3	72.6	107	48	4.14	T	11.95

Summary of Spring Weather

Even though the average date of the last freeze is in late February to the middle part of March, strong cold outbreaks have brought freezes to the area in late March to the middle part of April. A cold front in early April of 2009 left unseasonably cold lows on April 7, 2009, when lows in the 20s to the low and mid 30s were observed across the Hill Country to adjacent parts of South Central Texas. The low of 28 at Austin Bergstrom April 7, 2009 was a record low for the month of April.

A few cold outbreaks in April have brought lots of clouds and left daytime highs in the 40s to Mid 50s. This occurred at Austin, Del Rio and San Antonio in 1928 on April 8th and 9th, after very warm weather in late March of 1928. In April of 2007, a cold precipitation event on April 7th to the early morning hours of April 8th of 2007 brought cold rain and a mix of freezing rain, sleet, and some snow to the area. Afternoon temperatures on April 7th, 2007 fell into the low and mid 30s, 30 to 35 degrees colder than on Friday, April 6th. Light rain began to fall through the cold air and then changed to sleet at many locations along and north of a line from Del Rio to San Antonio to San Marcos, Austin and Georgetown, including the Texas Hill Country in the afternoon and evening of April 7th. Light snow was observed in Llano and Burnet Counties and extended east to parts of Williamson and Travis Counties. Some areas received measurable snow amounts, notably 10 miles northwest of Llano and over parts of Burnet and Williamson Counties. Snow flurries were observed in the Austin Area. Austin Bergstrom International Airport reported a trace of snow on April 7, 2007. Cold rain fell mainly south of Highway 90 from near Del Rio to south of San Antonio, and also southeast of Interstate 35.

On the other side of extremes, some spring days had highs near and above 100. In recent history, a record breaking heat wave came on the last few days of May 2004. Highs on May 31st, 2004 reached 107 at Del Rio, 104 at San Antonio, 100 at Austin Mabry and 99 at Austin Bergstrom. In May of 2008 and 2009, very warm weather came in the early part of May. The high of 107 at Del Rio on May 10th, 2008 was the warmest day at Del Rio in 2008. A year later the first 100 degree day at Del Rio on May 6, 2009 was also the warmest high at Del Rio in 2009, when the high was 107. In early May 2009, San Antonio had the first 100 degree day for 2009 on May 8th, when the high was 100 at San Antonio

International Airport and 103 at San Antonio Stinson. The first 100 degree day at Austin in 2009 came on June 13th, when the high was 100 at Austin Mabry. The average first 100 degree day comes to South Central Texas from late May to early July. The earliest 100 degree day in some years came as early as February 21st to March. The average date of the first 90 degree day at Austin Mabry is on April 18th; at Austin Bergstrom on April 19th; at Del Rio on March 20th; and at San Antonio on April 9th.

Some large scale severe spring weather events since 1997 included the Jarrell Tornado and severe weather event on May 27, 1997, a severe weather and tornado event over the Northern Texas Hill Country May 11, 1999, a severe weather event May 6, 2001, a severe weather and flood event April 4, 2004, a severe weather event April 20, 2006, and the Eagle Pass Tornado and severe weather event on Tuesday April 24, 2007 to the early morning hours of Wednesday April 25, 2007. Frequent severe weather events came in the middle of May in 2008. A severe weather event on the evening of May 14th to early morning hours of May 15th, 2008 brought severe thunderstorms from the Hill Country and east to parts of Central Texas, including the Austin Area. In 2009 several severe weather events affected South Central Texas from late March through April, and then again in the middle of May, followed by dry and hot weather that made the Summer of 2009 the hottest summer of record.

A few noteworthy floods have also come during the Spring. A widespread flood came to the area in April of 1915, when devastating and deadly floods affected South Central Texas. A flood at Austin, Texas left 35 fatalities in April of 1915. On April 23, 1915, the Austin City climate location recorded 10 inches of rain. Heavy rain followed on the 25th and 26th, with 6.05 inches of additional rain. April 1915 ended with 19.82 inches of rain at Austin, the 2nd wettest all time month for Austin, after September of 1921. Also in April of 1915, heavy rains and floods left 6.78 inches at San Antonio on April 18th. April 1915 ended up the wettest April on record for San Antonio, with 11.64 inches of rain.

A few additional spring flood events are summarized below. In 1935 a prolonged period of severe weather and floods came in May and June. Heavy rains and floods were observed from Del Rio and extended east across the Texas Hill Country, Austin, and San Antonio. At Austin 9.21 inches of rain fell in May and another 9.21 inches in June of 1935. For Del Rio May of 1935 brought 4.89 inches of rain, and 13.71 inches of additional rain in June of 1935. On May 31, 1935 very heavy rains near D' Hanis in Medina County left 22 to 24 inches of rain in only 2 hours and 45 minutes. The heaviest rains occurred at Woodward Ranch about 17 miles above D' Hanis on the Seco Creek, where extensive flooding occurred. Rains in Uvalde on June 15, 1935 amounted to 12.5 inches in 12 hours and 17.6 inches in 24 hours. At San Antonio, May of 1935 was the wettest May of record from 1871 to 2008, with 14.07 inches of rain, followed by 8.41 inches in June of 1935.

In 1972 on May 11th, heavy rains fell over eastern Comal County between 8 pm and Midnight. This caused a devastating flood on the Guadalupe River at New Braunfels the night of May 11 and May 12, 1972. Sixteen and a half inches of rain was observed between Canyon Dam and New Braunfels on the Guadalupe river watershed. Widespread damage

to homes and businesses occurred as the flood wave moved downstream through Lake Dunlap and Lake McQueeney.

In 1981 on Monday, May 24th the Memorial Day Flood came to Austin, when 4 to 10 inches of rain fell in a short period of time. On May 7, 1972 and May 5, 1993, a heavy rain and flood event affected San Antonio. On May 27, 2003, a heavy rain and flood event came to Del Rio, where 6.53 inches of rain fell.

Like May and June of 1935, an extended period of heavy rains and flooding affected South Central Texas from May 13 to June 12, 1987. Widespread flooding over the Texas Hill Country and South Central Texas occurred. Twenty years later in the Spring of 2007, several heavy rain events came to South Central Texas, and this rainy period continued through June, July and August of 2007.

Some Springs in the past have been very dry. A few notable ones in recent history include the Spring of 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, and 2011.

A trend toward windy days in wake of fast moving Pacific Cold Fronts came in the Fall of 2008 through the Winter of 2008/2009 to the early Spring of 2009. On April 2nd, 2009, a Pacific Cold Front swept across the region in the morning of April 2nd. A strong pressure gradient in wake of the fast moving cold front produced sustained winds of 25 to 35 mph, with gusts of 40 to 55 mph. The trend of windy days after fast moving cold fronts continued from the Fall of 2009 through the Winter of 2009/2010. During the El Nino of 1982/1983, the pattern of windy days in wake of fast moving cold fronts extended from the Winter of 1982/1983 to the Spring of 1983. On Friday, April 1st, 1983, very windy conditions came, as a fast moving Pacific Cold Front swept across the area. This brought large amounts of dust from the west and northwest, with strong northwest winds that gusted to between 45 and 55 mph. An isolated wind gust of 65 mph was observed at Del Rio on Friday April 1st, 1983.